



News for Pet Businesses

from Public Health – Seattle & King County

Dear Pet Business Operator,

We are trying something new...a mid-year newsletter! There is plenty of information to share, so we plan to continue mailing a newsletter with permit renewals at the beginning of the year and also provide a mid-year newsletter by email only. Both newsletters are posted on the pet business web site.

We currently have one Health & Environmental Inspector, Leah Helms, whom you can contact with feedback and questions at leah.helms@kingcounty.gov or 206.263.8450. You can also call the front desk at 206.263.9566.

Thank you for your continued partnership and efforts in protecting the public's health.

Sincerely, Beth Lipton DVM MPH, Public Health Veterinarian

What should you know about dog flu?

Canine influenza (dog flu) is a contagious respiratory disease caused by specific Type A influenza viruses known to infect dogs. No human infections with canine influenza have been reported at this time. There are two known canine influenza viruses- H3N8 and H3N2. Canine influenza virus H3N8 was first identified in the US in 2004, and since that time has been found in animal shelters, pet stores, boarding kennels, etc. throughout the US. The current outbreak of canine influenza that began in Chicago is caused not by the H3N8 virus but by the H3N2 virus, a type of avian flu virus that adapted to infect dogs and was previously only found in Asia (particularly Korea, China and Thailand). The virus was first detected in the US in April in the Chicago area, causing >1,000 cases; it is not known how H3N2 canine influenza virus was introduced into the US. H3N2 cases have subsequently been identified in several additional states. There have been no known cases or laboratory positive tests in WA at this time.

Since H3N2 canine influenza virus is a novel virus, all dogs, regardless of breed or age, are at risk of infection when first exposed. Signs of illness include cough, runny nose, and fever. The severity ranges from no signs to severe illness resulting in pneumonia and sometimes death. Up to 25% of infected dogs show no signs of illness, but they can still spread the virus. The virus is shed primarily in respiratory discharge and may be shed for up to 3 days before signs of illness develop. The virus can be spread by direct contact, contaminated objects such as hands, surfaces, clothing, etc., and through droplet and aerosol movement (has been shown to infect dogs up to 20 feet away). The virus may live in the environment for about 2 days and on hands and clothing for up to 24 hours. If the virus enters a kennel or other closed group, a high percentage of the dogs may become infected, and most will be symptomatic. There is no way to distinguish canine influenza from respiratory disease caused by other infections based on clinical signs alone. Treatment largely consists of supportive care. There is an approved vaccine to protect dogs against H3N8 virus; it is currently unknown whether this vaccine protects against the H3N2 virus.



Use our resources!

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/petbusinesses.aspx>

The pet business web site has many downloadable resources for you to use: disinfectant and dilutions fact sheets, an interactive bleach dilution calculator, infection control plan templates (recently updated!), brochures, signs, and posters, our newsletters, and links to other useful web sites. Let us know if there is something you don't see that would be useful.

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Do you have comments about
the 2015 pet business fees?
Email them to:
EHS.fees@kingcounty.gov
The mailbox is not routinely
monitored, but all comments
will be reviewed and compiled
in preparation for adoption of
the 2016 fees by the Board of
Health this fall.

More *Salmonella*! A follow-up to February's newsletter

Two recent national outbreaks of *Salmonella* have been linked to pets. An outbreak linked to pet crested geckos caused 22 cases in 17 states (2 cases in WA) with 14% of cases hospitalized. Another outbreak, still ongoing, is linked to baby poultry, with 181 cases in 40 states (6 cases in WA). At Public Health we have also seen recent cases of *Salmonella* linked to pet bearded dragons and hedgehogs. Both of these animals were associated with national outbreaks in previous years; however, cases are expected to continue at low levels due to the inherent risk of *Salmonella* exposure with these animals. Please remind your clients that children under the age of 5, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems should not have contact with risky pets, including baby poultry, reptiles and amphibians, and small pocket pets, or with pet food (especially raw foods).



The Pet Business Code requirements help protect people from zoonotic diseases, and by complying with them you are helping to prevent *Salmonella* and other infections. **The code requires that:**

- Pet shop operators must give written information about preventing diseases from pets to all purchasers/adopters.
- Information about the risk of *Salmonella* must be posted near reptile/amphibian and live poultry displays.
- If customers are allowed to handle pets for sale or adoption, there must be hand washing signage and readily accessible hand washing facilities or hand sanitizing stations.
- Businesses that sell pet foods/treats requiring refrigeration or freezing must post safe handling instructions for customers.

Now you can search for pet business permit status online

The page allows you to search for permit status using the name of the business, address, city, zip code or parcel number for any Pet Business that has a permit with Public Health.

Visit <http://www.skconnect.com/servlet/guest?service=1&enterprise=5>.



Findings from the Washington Tick Surveillance Project

The tick surveillance project, coordinated by the WA State Department of Health (DOH) and funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, has been conducting tick surveillance in WA since 2010. As of July 2014, they had received over 5,600 ticks and tested over 1,600 for five diseases that can infect both people and pets (Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, babesiosis, and tularemia). Lyme disease and anaplasmosis have been diagnosed in dogs in WA.

Surveillance shows that the tick that is the primary vector of Lyme disease and anaplasmosis (*Ixodes pacificus*) can be found throughout western WA and along the eastern slopes of the Cascades. Other *Ixodes* species that can also carry these diseases have been located in the same areas. Additionally, the bacteria that cause Lyme disease and anaplasmosis have been identified in submitted ticks, although at a low rate (<2% of tested ticks). Positive ticks came from Clallam, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. *Dermacentor* species of ticks have been tested for the bacteria that cause Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia - none have been positive.

Risk of exposure to tick bites and tick-borne disease is greatest during the spring/early summer and fall months. To remove a tick from a person or animal, use fine-tipped tweezers and grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible, pulling upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick as this can cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. If you find a tick, note the date and in case of illness, let your doctor or veterinarian know about the tick bite.

For tick bite prevention and more information on diseases that ticks spread, visit <http://www.doh.wa.gov/communityandenvironment/pests/ticks>.

Reduce clutter to make your business safer

It's a good time of year to go through your supply closets and storage areas and dispose of unused chemicals/cleaners and unwanted or damaged items. Small business hazardous waste disposal is available in King County and is free of charge for qualifying businesses. For details, visit the Business section of www.lhwmp.org/home/BHW/sqg.aspx or call the Business Waste Line at 206-263-8899. Fluorescent lights contain mercury and must be recycled. Do not dispose of fluorescent lamps or bulbs in the garbage. For a list of lamp recyclers and more information, visit www.lhwmp.org/home/mercury/contain-mercury.aspx or call 206-263-8899.



Welcome to the Public Health - Environmental Health Permit Status Page.

Your ticks wanted!

DOH would love to partner with you to collect and test ticks you find on animals! They will provide you with the collection kits and coordinate pick-ups. Contact David Kangiser at David.Kangiser@doh.wa.gov or at 360.236.3064 to get set up with kits.

DOH is also conducting a **survey** to gather input about encounters with ticks on dogs. Anyone who owns or works with dogs can take the survey, including your clients! Go to: www.doh.wa.gov/surveys/dogtick.

To help advertise the survey, download, print and post the below poster in your lobby:

<http://tinyurl.com/naze83z> (8.5x11)

<http://tinyurl.com/nza2cn6> (5.5x8.5)

